

REMARKS

Claims 24-39 are pending. Claim 24 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Claims 24-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,406,477 to Harhen in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0032105 to Frye et al. and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0075921 to Hayes-Roth.

Rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that it is unclear whether the limitation “the initiative” in claim 24 is the same as the business initiative. Claim 24 has been amended accordingly. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 24-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 24-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harhen in view of Frye and Hayes-Roth. The undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the Examiner Interview on December 3, 2010. In the Examiner Interview, the Examiner and her supervisor agreed that the cited references do not teach each and every element of the pending claims. Accordingly, the Examiner indicated that further search was necessary in order to maintain these rejections. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks/arguments, each of the claims in the application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and to pass the application to issue. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution might be advanced by discussing the application with the undersigned representative, in person or over the telephone, we welcome the opportunity to do so. No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-4402.

Respectfully submitted,

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